

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-11 and 15-20 stand rejected; and Claims 12-14 stand objected to. By way of this paper, Claims 1, 4, and 15 have been amended; and Claims 10-14 have been cancelled.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11 and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by the Michel et al. ('562) reference.

Independent Claims 1, 4, and 15 have been amended to more clearly point out that visual inspection the set of printed test images includes visual inspection of the set of printed test images for inking above an upper ink limit as evidenced by at least one of over saturation in shadow areas of graphics, excessive bleed between colors on the printed test sheets, poor text edge definition, show through of the printed image to an opposite side of the substrate, and cockle of the printed image, as described in at least paragraphs 26, 31, and 36 of the US Patent Application Publication (Pub. No. US 2003/0090532 A1) corresponding to Applicants' invention.

Applicants submit that three of the considerations described above were originally presented in Claims 12-14, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicants submit that the Michel et al. ('562) reference does not disclose visual inspection of the set of printed test images for inking above an upper ink limit as evidenced by either over saturation in shadow areas of graphics or excessive bleed between colors on the printed test sheets.

Regarding excessive bleed between colors on the printed test sheets, Applicants submit that the Michel et al. ('562) reference does not disclose visually inspecting a test image for inking above an upper ink limit as evidenced by bleed between colors. Instead, the Michel et al. ('562) reference discloses comparing spots (of the same color) having different densities to determine which spot density can be distinguished from a background (col. 8, lines 3-5). Although the background has a different density than the spots, the color of the background

is the same color as the spots (col. 5, lines 48-55). As the background color is the same as the color of the spots, there can be no bleed between colors.

Regarding over saturation in shadow areas of graphics, Applicants submit that the Michel et al. ('562) reference does not disclose visually inspecting a test image for inking above an upper ink limit as evidenced by over saturation (or loss of detail) in shadow areas of graphics. Instead, the Michel et al. ('562) reference discloses selecting the darkest toner or ink value that can be distinguished from a dense background (col. 5, lines 50-51). As such, the Michel et al. ('562) reference teaches inspecting for the darkest spot that can be distinguished from a dense background of the same color. Presumably, after the darkest spot was determined, there would be no loss of detail in any shadow area. Therefore, there would be no need to visually inspect a test image for inking above an upper ink limit as evidenced by over saturation in shadow areas of graphics.

Claims 2, 3, 5-9, and 16-20 depend from one of Claims 1, 4, or 15 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claims 1-9 and 15-20 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

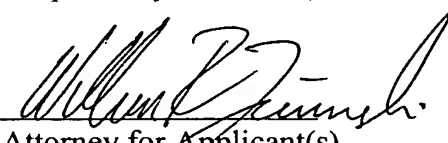
Claims 12-14 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of Claims 12-14 has been included in amended independent Claims 1, 4, and 15, as described above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

William R. Zimmerli/tt
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 588-2758
Facsimile: (585) 477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.